

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

**Absent:** Cllrs A Effiong, R Lacey and N Thompson

**In attendance:** Cllrs S Baker, J Hewitt, P Sharman, and Ian Reed Deputy Town Clerk

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence (54-2023/24)</b> Apologies received from Cllr N Thompson.	Admin
<b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (55-2023/24)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None. ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Osborne declared non – pecuniary interests in agenda item 5 as it related to the maintenance of St Swithun’s closed church yard (boundary wall) and agenda item 6 as President of Sandy FC iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.	Admin
<b>3 Minutes of previous meeting (56-2023/24)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.	Deputy Clerk
<b>4 Public Participation Session (57-2023/24)</b> No members of the public were present.	
<b>5 Action List (58-2023/24)</b> Members received and noted the action list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allotment and Community Orchard at Beeston The Committee noted that the issues were discussed at the Council meeting on 30 October 2023. The Town Council was expecting CBC to respond positively to the request for the site to be cleared of hard standings, heavy wire, and rubble otherwise the site would be rejected as an allotment site</li></ul>	Deputy Clerk

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- Re the EV charging points the members of the working group and the Deputy Clerk to meet to discuss issues that would require further discussion by the Committee
- Queen's Jubilee (Now celebration of the life of HM the Queen) The Committee was advised the mosaic scheme would hopefully resume in 2024 with a new supplier
- Beeston Green Drainage  
A meeting between Councillor M Scott and a representative of the Internal Drainage Board had been held and the IDB had agreed to take action as follows;
  1. Review the dyke at the north end of Beeston that runs along the side of the road and goes underground at Bulldog Steel signage as this needs debris cleared from it to increase flow
  2. Clear debris and substantial foliage overgrowth where the dyke surfaces at the end of The Grange and runs in front of Grange Gardens
  3. Clear debris and substantial foliage overgrowth where the dyke surfaces at the end of The Grange and runs in front of Grange Gardens
  4. Clear debris and extensive overgrowth of foliage within the tributary that connects to the Ivel from the bridge and to the left of Willow Island as there is currently no free-flowing water

## 6 Bedford Road Recreation Ground - Pavilion (59-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on a request from Sandy FC to collaborate with the Council to replace four external doors at the pavilion at a cost of £3,000 excluding VAT. The doors were regularly vandalised. The football club was prepared to share the costs of the door replacement with the council. It was noted there were other repairs required at the pavilion including repairs to changing rooms and the drains.

Town  
Clerk

### **It was RECOMMENDED:**

That the Council be asked to make a payment of £1,500 towards the costs of the door replacement with the funds coming from Capital

**RESOLVED** That the drains at the pavilion be investigated as soon as possible

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## 7 Events Working Group (60-2023/24)

The Committee discussed a report which summarised the events recently held and those planned for the rest of the year. It was noted that a similar report had been received at the meeting of Full Council on 30 October. The Committee also discussed a report on the development of the new Christmas Lights Event. The Committee was advised that the Council had granted the Committee delegated powers to determine the budget for the 2023 lighting switch on event. The Council was working with Event Production Live. It was also pointed out that although the Council had received £8,000 from The Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights (FCSL) there was no resolution made to allow the funding to be used to part fund the event this year. At the moment the approved Council budget for the event was £4,000 and the costs were coming out at £9,684. It was reported that Brittanica Pharmacy had used its community funding donation scheme to cover the Town Councils' Christmas Tree costs of £1,500.

Town  
Clerk

### **It was RESOLVED:**

That the costs for the event in 2023 are taken from the allocated budget line, donations received, raffle income with the shortfall deducted from the funds received from FSCL.

## 8 Environmental Improvements (61-2023/24)

### (a) Bio - diversity

The Committee was advised that the Town Council had a legal duty to consider how it could conserve and enhance biodiversity, set policies and objectives, implement policies, and achieve objectives. These would be reported to Central Bedfordshire Council in January 2024.

As part of the biodiversity policies, it was noted that the Council would look at how it manages the land it owns including allotments, cemeteries, parks and sports fields, verges, woodlands, and nature reserves, rivers, and water dependent habitats. These areas could be managed to create habitats for wildlife, and nature corridors.

Other beneficial actions of a biodiversity policy included using native and sustainably sourced trees when planting, creating dedicated spaces for wildlife, leaving deadwood in woodlands to provide additional habitat, maintaining planted trees to give them the best chance of survival, reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides peat and water, implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease. It was noted the new cemetery extension would give more opportunities to meet these objectives.

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## **It was RESOLVED:**

That the Councils' biodiversity policies contained in its Environmental Plan be publicised and policies and objectives be identified for implementation.

## **(b) Hedgerows**

The Committee was advised that the Campaign for Rural England (CPRE) was introducing a Hedgerow Heroes project in Bedfordshire. This would involve planting or restoring hedgerows.

## **It was RESOLVED:**

That the Committee supports the CPRE initiative and registers our interest. Also, we support hedgerow planting at the cemetery extension and improving the hedge around the playground at The Limes and requests that a planting scheme is prepared for further consideration.

**NB** In considering the item the 'No Mow May' initiative that some Councils had signed up to was discussed and it was requested a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee

## **9 Summary of Budget Proposals for 2024/25(62-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a report on its proposed budget submissions. The proposed budget items had been summarised in the report. The recommendations had been graded A to C with A being highly recommended, B to be funded if possible and C were unlikely to be funded

Town  
Clerk

## **It was RECOMMENDED:**

1. Banner Installation for Summer (now called general) and Remembrance activities £475 per installation (no provision for Union flag banners for D Day) **B**
2. Sunderland Road Pitch improvement possible funding from Football Foundation £4,000 **A**
3. Fallowfield footways - resurfacing **A** (costs to be provided)
4. St Swithun's Western Wall (costs to be submitted) **A**
5. Line marking robot system Budget line 4042 £500 per season **A**
6. Former SEG spaces - renovations and maintenance £2,500 **A** (to investigate income from a biodiversity project)
7. Skatepark soft pour installation to replace non-existent and deteriorating grass surface. Suggested from Capital £9000 **A**

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8. Tree care - to fund aftercare. NB awaiting BC confirmation that mini forest application will be accepted B (costs to follow)

**It was RESOLVED:** To note for 2024/25 that the following items had not yet been discussed:

- Events
- Markets x 2
- D Day Commemoration
- Big Lunch
- Skate park anniversary
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas Lights 2024
- St Swithun's Tree Festival 2024

## **10 Report of Beeston Working Group (63-2023/24)**

The Committee received a report From Cllr Blackley as a Member of the Beeston Working Group. Recent site meetings of the Working Group had generated a number of outstanding items that the Committee was asked to discuss. The issues raised related to Internal Drainage Board outstanding items, Trees and the Green maintenance and allotments for Beeston. The issues relating to the IDB had been reported at Minute 58 above.

Deputy  
Town  
Clerk

In relation to the Trees and The Green it was requested;

- that to be included in the Tree Survey to be conducted to include at north end of the Green, opposite The Grange oak saplings need additional support
- Maintenance and Management of willows and trees on the north end of Beeston Green between the Grange and Grange Gardens as all overgrown and impacting water flow
- Rewilding parts of The Green for nature with meadow/water flowers, developing Willow Island as a rewilded community space
- Letters to residents regarding damage to the Green and parking will be drafted by Cllr Blackley and sent to the Clerk for sending on.

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In regard to Beeston Allotments, it was agreed to contact the Land Registry for ownership of land between No.18 boundary and Greensands Ridge and agricultural land that extends back and runs between No.18 boundary and Greensands Ridge  
**It was RESOLVED:** that the maps prepared by Cllr Blackley be circulated to all Members and that action be taken to contact the Land Registry as described in the report.

**11 Chairman's Items (64-2023/24)**

No report

**12 Date of Next Meeting (65-2023/24)**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm